

Patent Application of Russell J. Fischer for "Method and Apparatus for Prediction of  
Cardiac Dysfunction" continued

Page 20

**ABSTRACT:** A method and apparatus for predicting cardiac dysfunction simultaneously assesses the modulation of the rate of atrial depolarization and the modulation of the rate of ventricular depolarization to monitor the interaction of the sino-atrial and atrio-ventricular pacemakers of the heart.. The atrial and ventricular rate signals are formed from fiducial markers in the electrocardiogram or intracardiac electrogram corresponding to atrial and ventricular depolarization. The rate signals are characterized with a measure of their modulation, and are then compared to predict episodes of cardiac dysfunction.